The Death of a School Master


Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world…
-W. B. Yeats, The Second Coming.

Have you ever woken up in the morning too tired to really care? Too scornful to worry about the world around you; too burdened to try not to be. The School is suffering from an undeniable sickness, which has slowly gripped the very roots of what we hold dear to the Dosco narrative. Logic itself turns in its freshly dug grave, as do the values that we once prided ourselves on.

This piece, however, is not about the School as a whole. Nay, that would be far too ambitious an undertaking and we as writers would find ourselves in a remote Latin American country fleeing mob justice. Rather, we would like to underscore the recurrent, and rather disconcerting, problem of misbehaviour with teachers that has become almost commonplace in this institution. It is a concern that we are all too aware of, mostly because of our often shameless engagement in the practice.

For reasons yet unknown, several boys have developed the tendency to bark at masters when they do not get what they want, be it grades, liberties or attention. Their hairs stand on end when told to do the right thing by their elders. Not only are boys unable to control their squawking in the classroom, but they continue to pursue masters outside it like prey. Needless to say, these are all characteristics of animals and symptomatic of much larger issues of disillusionment and indifference. Even dogs are born with innate loyalty, but it appears that a boy in this School can lack even that; perhaps, his allegiance is only to himself and his indifferent, if not contemptuous, attitude.

We look to admit students of a specific intellectual caliber, pitted against others through rigorous interviews to find the crème de la crème of the Indian youth. Instead, we find ourselves needing to settle for a different breed of student; struggling to grapple with the basic social protocol expected of a productive member of a community. The putrid remains of a respectable legacy lie in the background, as student-teacher confrontations falling on the clear end of unacceptable remain under prolonged investigation.

Yet, on the brink of ranting, we acknowledge one common truth: our communal conscience needs a serious resuscitation.

We begin with the notion of responsibility to oneself. Not just for students, but teachers and the administration. Nothing happens without our consent: eventually, we consciously decide to riddle our calendar with events, sign on to participate, and consequently lead each of them. To complain thereafter is incredibly hypocritical, and altogether unbecoming of the position itself. Every mistake, travail and consequent experience is a decision we make knowing our limitations and ambitions; contrary to popular belief, we do control our time. So, consciousness assured, it is important to remember two things. First, as a student, look to only yourself when the finality of your decisions dawns on you. While the...
REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

The school participated in the 2nd Annual Indian National Space Settlement Design Competition 2018. Following are the results:

Mahip Agrawal and Shantam Gilra were given Special Recognition in the Good Points category. Aneesh Agrawal was awarded the Dick Edwards Award for Exceptional Leadership. The team stood Runners-Up and has been selected to represent India at the Asian Semi-finals.

Kudos!

MASTERS OF MODULATION

The results for the Trinity Speech and Drama Examination, 2018 are as follows:

Shivendra Pratap Singh and Sudhir Chowdhry have been awarded Distinction in the Grade 6 examination. Miland Khemka has been awarded Distinction in the Grade 7 examination.

Congratulations!

STELLAR SHUTTLERS

Mayank Kukreti and Krish Agarwal have been selected for the Badminton SGFI Nationals.

Well Done!

SCHOLARLY SUCCESS

Shaurya Agarwal and Zoraver Mehta have been awarded the Scholar’s Blazer.

Well done!

APPOINTMENTS

The following are the various appointments for the year 2018-19:

Grandslam
Editor-in-Chief: Rishi Shrishirmal
Chief-Of-Production: Agastya Nath

Design and Technology STA
Boy-in-Charge: Rana Sunjog Third

Srijan Prayas
Editor-in-Chief: Paras Gupta
Chief-of-Production: Keshav Pransukhka

DSIR
Editor-in-Chief: Karan Sampath
Chief-of-Production: Divyansh Nautiyal

Art
Secretary: Ameya Shawak

We wish them fruitful tenures!

Some painters transform the Sun into a yellow spot, others transform a yellow spot into the Sun.

Pablo Picasso

Around the World in 80 Words

Incarcerated murderer Samuel Little was investigated after confessing to 90 killings across four decades in the US. Queensland, Australia battled over a hundred fires as the city was prompted to evacuate on Wednesday. Norwegian grandmaster Magnus Carlsen held onto his world chess championship, beating Fabiano Caruana. Trump’s ex-lawyer Michael Cohen pled guilty of lying to US Congress over Russia business deal. The Maharashtra Assembly passed a bill proposing to reserve 16% of seats in education and government jobs for Marathas.
aid and counsel of our teachers is invaluable in the choices we make, the final onus of responsibility falls on our shoulders. Yet, if you know you cannot do justice to, or feel lackadaisical enough to not be perturbed by, the gravity of your responsibility, don’t do it. Second, as much as the pressures of our choices impact us, they do multifold for our teachers.

In the vein of responsibility, remember that we are held to a certain standard: an expectation to be more than a mere flash in a fleeting existence. Contained within that code is the bare minimum of appreciation. As much as we choose to engage in certain activities, most of our teachers and tutors voluntarily subscribe to an age-old idea of the archetypical Doon School Master. That doesn’t mean they are obliged to feed us, ferry us on outings, or even fetch our cakes; a gross underestimation of everything they represent if ever we thought that. The few masters who open their doors to us at midnight, talking to us, counselling us in matters that they need not engage with us on, are doing their role justice. Every tutorial meeting where they hear us whine and cry, laugh and roast, simply gauging our stories and engaging with our lives, are doing their role justice. Granted, not all teachers fully embody this, yet where attention for betterment is due, it is being given. Inevitably, there is room for improvement; while experienced masters are more aware of this code, many are still imbibing these qualities. Regardless, it goes without saying, students need to respect the choices of their masters, as opposed to ridiculing their shortcomings.Yet, the greater shame lies in the implications of “fixin’ what’s not broken”, by reminding teachers about their responsibility as role models and mentors. This, when considered from the perspective of the master already mentoring the boys, can be anything but conducive to the relationship. Ironically, the very same administrative ideology is trying to promote a greater openness in the community, but is very deeply scarring it.

Echoing thoughts posited by boys on this very page, it all comes down to trust. Boys do not deserve trust when out of the cacophony of their voices, only crombing may be heard. Notice, we have avoided ‘Doscos’ throughout this piece: we would prefer ‘boys’, for the problem this piece addresses is symptomatic of boys who refuse to act like men. Not chauvinistic, testosterone-fueled beasts, but mature, compassionate and able members of a community, capable of doing justice by the people they pledge themselves to. When trust can be rekindled between the student and teacher body, maybe we can hope to reconsider the administrative short-comings that mire us today. In its absence, it is easy to catch a dispassionate gaze, dead-eyed and all too hopeless.

(Continued from Page 1)

Q: What problems do you think the boys are facing?
Ans: I think School expects too much from us and creates a huge workload for us to conquer. The environment is such that people feel compelled to get involved in one activity or the other and engage actively in all aspects of School life. If you don’t do anything, people don’t notice you, and then nor does the School.

Q: Did you apply for Exchange?
Ans: No, I didn’t apply for Exchange, because I want to go in S-form. When the Exchange application came, I asked my seniors about it. They recommended that I go in my senior forms, as in their experience, you will have a better understanding of life and be able to do better on the Exchange.

From the Penguin’s Beak

With this section, the Weekly aims to chronicle the life of a Dosco as he views it. Only when a person reflects can he march forward to success; the interview attempts to encapsulate this maxim. The choice for interviewee is wholly arbitrary, and will continue to be so. Happy Reading!

Q: What were the highlights of the term for you?
Ans: In School, I have been involved in Music as a part of the choir. Since the beginning of term, I had been looking forward to performing on the occasion of Founder’s as it’s the one time that parents get to see the School in its prime. I also wanted my parents to come and see me perform, and when they did, Founder’s became the highlight of my term. Otherwise, most of the time it was both busy and engaging.

Q: What are you looking to accomplish over the coming winter holidays?
Ans: As a B-former who has his Final Trials coming up in March, my priority is to study. Mid-term Trials were a wake-up call for me as I saw a huge drop in my grades. For my own sake, I needed to memorise and from what my masters have told me, develop more of a "conceptual understanding". I will also be working on my skills as a vocalist in Hindustani Classical music.

Q: What problems did you face this term?
Ans: I felt that I had started drifting away from my friends. Since I started getting involved in activities that often took me out of School, I felt that I couldn’t spend as much time with them. This is why I knew I had to strike a balance because I don’t want to miss out on hanging out with my friends.

Q: What problems do you think
Master of One

Ishan Roy proposes a new system for sports in School.

When one has only a couple of months left in school, many dormant thoughts begin to surface. You tend to think about the positive and negative changes you have witnessed in your school time. For some time now, I have been thinking about the level of sports in our school. Has there been a perceptible improvement in the level or has it suffered a bit of a slump?

Being an active sportsman in school myself, I’ve been for various tournaments over the course of the last year where, regrettably, I have had to hear the general perception our fellow public schools have of Doon; we are a school where sports teams are sent just for the sake of competing. When you come to think of it, it has been a while since the team sports (basketball, cricket, football, etc) have brought home any silverware from the renowned and prestigious competitions. We find ourselves facing strenuous competition and getting eliminated in the latter stages of the tournament. But we must keep in mind that this feat is a very respectable task.

We have to remind ourselves that we are not a Sports College, an MNSS Rai or even a Mayo Boys for that matter. Despite the fact that our sporting seasons barely last a few weeks, we do give stiff competition to our opponents. This is a manifestation of the talent of the sportsmen in Chandbagh. In almost every sport, we manage to produce a national level player. This level of prowess is commendable. The question we need to ponder over is whether Doscos need to reach the pinnacle of success or are we content with our performance.

I understand that school works on the principle of holistic education and to sustain this system we have seasonal sports which provide each individual with an equal opportunity to participate in all sports. This system has prevailed for as long as one can remember—since my father’s time and his father’s time in Doon. They have all played cricket in cricket season, hockey in hockey season and football in the football season. Change is a constant in any old institution, but it is up to its members to decide whether these changes will be trivial ones or a one which will have a lingering impact on the function of the institution.

With reference to the chain of thought I have expressed, how feasible is it to implement an idea of specialisation? Please do correct me if I am wrong, but specialisation is a form of learning that provides an opportunity to an individual to hone their skills in field they are excelling in. It is an extremely efficient and effective way of fostering learning. Furthermore, it also provides an opportunity so students can gravitate towards the activity when consistent practices take place. What I am trying to convey is that a system like this will give our athletes a chance to work solely on athletics and give other sportsmen to give their undivided attention to their preferred activity at any time of the year.

I know that if a system like this is implemented, an integral part of the tradition of the school will take a backseat; namely the Games Blazer which has been worn by the gifted Dosco sportsman for the last 50 odd years. With an institution like ours that is built so strongly on the concept of traditions and beliefs, I feel it is extremely difficult and cumbersome to enforce this on everybody. There are many who simply cannot specialise in one sport, and that is nothing objectionable. Those who would wish to choose one practise, can do so and those who do not wish to should not feel compelled to. In our formative years, a major part of games is played for the sake of leisure and enjoyment. There are many people, including myself who play a wide array of sports, just because they are able to immerse themselves in the sport they are devoting their unswerving effort to at that time. Therefore, I feel that it should be an option for everybody, a choice that people can make based on their best judgement.

It is imperative that we as a community can understand the activities which promote our ethos and those which hinder it. I urge the community to consider the prospect of specialising in sports, and only welcome it after having scrutinised all possibilities that may impinge on School’s ethos and traditions. Being a third generation Dosco myself, I know how strong and priceless this tradition has been in making this institution what it is. As a community, we must devise a way which promotes the legacy of School, and does not hamper its natural progression.

Opinion

Should we specialise in only one sport in a term?

Yes 43%

No 51%

Can't Say 6%

(367 members of the School community were polled)
The Doon School Weekly interviewed Ashwin Sanghi, an Indian thriller-fiction writer.

The Storyteller

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): In your talk you mentioned a review that said it was a disservice to compare you to Dan Brown. In real life, a race to be first exists. In that race the second is usually accused of being a copy. What would you say to people facing this situation?

Ashwin Sanghi (AWS): Only you can answer this question, ‘Are you copying or are you innovating?’ When my first book, The Rozabal Line, was released people dubbed me as ‘The Desi Dan Brown’. If one were to read the book, they would soon realise that it is nothing like The Da Vinci Code. Although both the books run on the same themes, the theories are completely different. There are bound to be people who compare and make false accusations. However, one should learn to be indifferent to the public.

DSW: Since we are trying to promote creative writing, we have a very pertinent question. You claim to be a good storyteller, not a writer. What would your suggestions be to an aspiring storyteller-writer?

AWS: Firstly, write. Too many people think of writing but they don’t write. Cultivating the habit of writing is important. Secondly, eliminate the fear of public judgement of what you have written. This is imperative as too many people restrict their creativity on the basis of how it may be perceived. Moreover, if you plan to enter the field of writing or storytelling after graduation, remember to hold onto a day job, as it is important to have a steady source of income while you sharpen your writing. You should also not depend on what critics say. If you do, you may never progress as a writer. If you do succeed as a writer, remember to stay humble as neither the language nor the story belongs to you.

DSW: Currently people think about becoming businessman, engineers or perhaps going into international relations. When did you become sure of your career as a writer?

AWS: During my time in college, I was never sure that I was going to become a writer. In fact, the course I had taken was oriented towards business. After I did my MBA from Yale, in 1993, I was part of my family business till 2012. I had started writing in 2002 and a couple of books came out during that period. It was only around 2011 that I seriously started thinking about changing my career to writing.

DSW: The school would like to know what your plans are in terms of writing and the other various projects you are involved with.

AWS: There are various types of projects going on and as you know currently my books are in three series. One is the Bharat series which covers history, mythology, culture, religion, spirituality and philosophy, which I combine in a world of fiction. In addition to that, I do my Crime thriller Series alongside James Patterson. Then I also do my motivational books which are The 13 steps series. As of now, these are the three spaces that I operate in.

Currently I have got book number six in the Bharat Series which I hope to bring that out by the middle of next year. In addition to that, in the Crimechilla space, I am working on an independent series. Hopefully, we should be able to bring out the first book by the end of 2019 or early 2020. In The Thirteen Steps series I am working on writing on three titles which are a book on health, a book on salesmanship and a book on parenting. So I have tons of work and lots of projects which will come out in 2019. The Sialkot Saga and the Krishna Key are also getting adapted.

| POETRY |

Pointed Question

Aayush Chowdhry

Is the Knife bad? Is the Knife bad or the murderer? Similarly, is Hierarchy bad or is one senior ????!
To be perfectly honest with you, my dear reader, most of my week has been quite a blur; I expect the same is true for many of you too! Indeed, the holidays come a week too late and certainly after a week too long.

However, I write this piece with the bits of gossip you’ve graciously shared with me, along with flashes from my own memory. There seems to be a flurry of colours incessantly hitting Assembly on a daily basis. Captain after captain share with the community the progress that their respective sport or activity has made over the year. What better manner to conclude the year than to take stock of the vast improvements we’ve made to our beloved institution this year? Of course, there will be some among you whose hearts were broken in the course of this week - and for good reason. Don’t we all fret when our goals, which we’ve worked so tirelessly towards, elude us? But, perhaps, it is now that we mustn’t stew ahead and despair over coming up short, but rather glance backwards and marvel at the huge distance we’ve come forward, and laugh at our own often-foolish selves; one must compliment our community for doing so with exceptional ease. We had a glimpse of this ability this Monday when we gathered in the Rose Bowl for S Form entertainment. In an hour and a half of constant giggling and trembling with laughter, there were some spectacular acts of mimicry ranging from a certain inspiring Mathematics master, a veteran political ‘scientist’ and of course the ‘Big’ Eagle, and his ‘smaller’ comrade. Borrowing from the director’s post performance speech, “We make fun of you (our masters) because there is so little to pick on.” Hopefully, the SC Form too was satisfied with the brave effort put on by the penultimate form.

This week saw SC Form engage (for the last time) in an Inter-House match as the Basketball tournament came to a close. For most of us, evenings over the past few days were spent under floodlights, cheering our teams through absolutely intense matches. The final match (H vs. K), as I am told, was a clash of Titans as the two teams dribbled into each other for more than an hour. Speaking of timers, I offer my condolences to many of my dear form mates who’ve fallen victims to standardised testing over these past weeks. Preparations rage on, with many quite ‘mocked’ by the unending spree of tests the Careers department’s been handing out. Some others seem confined by our walls a week longer for the ACTs that the rat race for college demands them to ace.

SC Form, I wish you luck for whatever’s left, for interviews and half done applications yet to be sent. Hopefully for you, the erudite Eagle’s words that adorned the front page of the precious issue of the Weekly are proven false! For all the rest of us, happy holidays! And, as we wave goodbye to School tomorrow, we remember that the lamp travels with us, now and forever.

Sudoku

6 8 4
9 1 3
5 8 2

4 1 3
5 7 8
9 2 6

2 7 4
8 6 1
3 9 5

https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/sudoku/

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Weekly wishes all its readers an enjoyable winter vacation, a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Check out the holiday checklist on Page 8 for your homework!
The Term Gone By

Pratham Bansal

**The Term Gone By**

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**The Term Gone By**

Pratham Bansal
sports
India vs Australia test series
Australian Open
2019 Dakar Rally
African Cup of Nations
Handball World Championships
India vs Australia ODI series

tv shows
Sabrina (Premiere) | October 26
Homecoming | November 2
House of Cards (Final season) | November 2
Narcos - Season 4 | November 16
Star Trek Discovery season | January 2

books
The Outsider
Stephen King
Fire and Blood
George RR Martin
The Paranormal Prime Minister
Shashi Tharoor
21 Lessons for the 21st Century
Yuvan Nosh Haran
The Boat People
Sharon Bala
Girls Burn Brighter
Shobha Rao

video games
Red Dead Redemption 2 | October 26
Hitman 2 | November 13
Fallout 76 | November 14
Battlefield V | November 15
Just Cause 4 | December 4
Fortnite Season 7 | December 6

music
The Pains of Growing
DNA
What is Love?
Pheonix
Origins
Treat Myself
Alessia Cara
Backstreet Boys
Clean Bandit
Rita Ora
Imagine Dragons
Meghan Trainor

movies
Bumblebee
December 8
Spiderman into the Spiderverse
December 14
Aquaman
December 14
Mary Poppins Returns
December 19
Zero
December 21
URI: The surgical strike
January 11

The views expressed in articles printed are their authors’ own and do not necessarily reflect those of the Weekly or its editorial policy.

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